

From: [Vickie Askins](#)
To: [OIG FOIA](#)
Subject: RE: EPA FOIA EPA-HQ-2019-005980
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 5:28:47 PM

Hi Scott,

I'm very grateful for your help!! Thanks so much for straightening this out.
Have a blessed holiday season,
Vickie

From: Levine, Scott <Levine.Scott@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** [OIG FOIA](#)
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Vickie Askins <vaskins1.va@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: EPA FOIA EPA-HQ-2019-005980

Hi Vickie,

Thanks for the clarification. It appears the wording was confusing for whomever sorted the FOIA originally in the regional office. I will work with Region 5 so you won't have to submit a new request. You will likely get an automated email that the request is being transferred to another agency (it's not; but the system recognizes the regional office and HQ office as separate agencies). It will likely be assigned a new FOIA number again which should swap the "HQ" with "R5" – making it EPA-R5-2019-005980.

I apologize for the back-and-forth between the regional office and OIG and for the confusion. I think we have it figured out now and will begin diligently working to provide you with any records responsive to your request. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist!

Best regards,
Scott

From: Vickie Askins <vaskins1.va@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 3:09 PM
To: [OIG FOIA](#) <OIG_FOIA@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA FOIA EPA-HQ-2019-005980

Hi Scott,

Thanks for reaching out to me. I tried to call but my message may not have gotten back to you yet.

Below is what EPA Region 5 Julianne Socha replied when I asked her about my FOIA. I'm very confused as to why Region 5 forwarded my FOIA to the IG's Office for response. Perhaps I worded my request a little awkwardly. I asked for the following:

[REDACTED]

Date Submitted: 05/24/2019

- Long Description: Please send all communications to and from the U.S. EPA Inspector General, the Ohio EPA and the ODA regarding Ohio's transfer request and our 2011 Petition since 11/1/2018 regarding U.S. EPA I.G. Report No. 19-N-0154. Please contact me if there are large documents involved with this FOIA request.

I believe the records I want would be at the Region 5 office because Julianne is in charge of EPA's response to the Inspector General and she is the one working with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. I'm very doubtful Region 5 has been forwarding copies of everything to the I.G. as they continue to work on the two requests from the I.G.

I should have asked for all of Region 5's communications between the I.G., the Ohio EPA, and the ODA but I submitted to Region 5 so I assumed they would respond. Should I re-submit my FOIA or could you straiten this out with Region 5?

Thanks for your help!
Vickie Askins

Hello Vickie,

According to information from the Region 5 FOIA office, your FOIA, 2019-005980, has been assigned to the Office of Inspector General. I have not seen your FOIA request nor am I involved in the assignment of FOIAs to specific offices so I cannot provide any insight as to why the FOIA was assigned to the Office of Inspector General. According to Region 5 FOIA office, Scott Levine is the FOIA Coordinator for the Office of Inspector General. Scott can be reached at 202-566-0641, levine.scott@epa.gov. I recommend contacting Scott to find out more information about the status of your request.

If you do not have success contacting Scott Levine you could also reach out to EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at 202-566-1667, hq.foia@epa.gov.

The most recent release of records by Region 5 through FOIA regarding the Ohio Transfer are records in response to EPA-R5-2019-008440. If you enter "EPA-R5-2019-008440" as the keyword in the Quick Search tool on FOIA online, <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>, you will be able to access the records. Some of these may be similar or duplicates of the records you received from Ohio but the records provided in response to FOIA 2019-008440 date back to fall of 2017 through the end of August 2019 so there may be additional records that were not included in Ohio's release.

Julianne

Julianne Socha

Section 2 | Permits Branch | Water Division | Region 5 | U.S. EPA
77 W. Jackson Blvd. WP-16J | Chicago IL 60604
312-886-4436 | socha.julianne@epa.gov

From: Vickie Askins <vaskins1.va@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:50 PM

To: Socha, Julianne <socha.julianne@epa.gov>

Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FOIA Tracking Number Change for request EPA-R5-2019-005980 (to EPA-HQ-2019-005980)

Hi Julianne,

I hope things are well.

Sorry to bother you but I submitted a FOIA request to Region 5 on May 24th which was then apparently "transferred to another agency" (see below). It's been over six months and I have received no records from Region 5.

I did receive some records regarding the US EPA IG Report from ODA, which was actually assembled by Ohio EPA – almost 3,000 records on a CD - mostly dumps of email responses to conference calls thru the end of August; agendas for the 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11 and 6/24/2019 conference calls, plus the 4/5 five-page work product you prepared regarding topics for discussion.

Would you please investigate why Region 5 has not responded to my 5/24 FOIA request? Or, would you please forward my request to whoever is responsible for filling FOIA requests?

Thanks for your help!

Vickie Askins

From: admin@foiaonline.gov <admin@foiaonline.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 12:17 PM

To: vaskins1.va@gmail.com

Subject: FOIA Tracking Number Change for request EPA-R5-2019-005980 (to EPA-HQ-2019-005980)

The FOIA request EPA-R5-2019-005980 has had its Tracking Number changed to EPA-HQ-2019-005980. This is normally due to the request being **transferred to another agency** (for example, EPA to Dept. of Commerce) or to a sub-agency to process it. Additional details for this request are as follows:

- Old Tracking Number: EPA-R5-2019-005980
- New Tracking Number: EPA-HQ-2019-005980
- Requester Name: Mrs. Vickie A Askins
- **Date Submitted: 05/24/2019**
- Long Description: Please send all communications to and from the U.S. EPA Inspector General, the Ohio EPA and the ODA regarding Ohio's transfer request and our 2011 Petition since 11/1/2018 regarding U.S. EPA I.G. Report No. 19-N-0154. Please contact me if there are large documents involved with this FOIA request.

From: Levine, Scott <Levine.Scott@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** OIG FOIA

Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:37 AM

To: vaskins1.va@gmail.com

Subject: EPA FOIA EPA-HQ-2019-005980

Dear Ms. Askins:

I am writing with regards to your Freedom of Information Act request EPA-HQ-2019-005980. I would like to set up a time to briefly speak with you to understand what records you are specifically seeking in this FOIA request, to make sure the right office has been assigned, and so we can proceed to provide you with responsive records. Please feel free to call me at 202-566-1512, or if there is a preferred time that works for you, please let me know.

Thank you,
Scott

Scott Levine

Associate Counsel / OIG FOIA Coordinator

Office of Inspector General, Office of Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

oig_foia@epa.gov • (202) 566-1512 • Fax (202) 566-0870